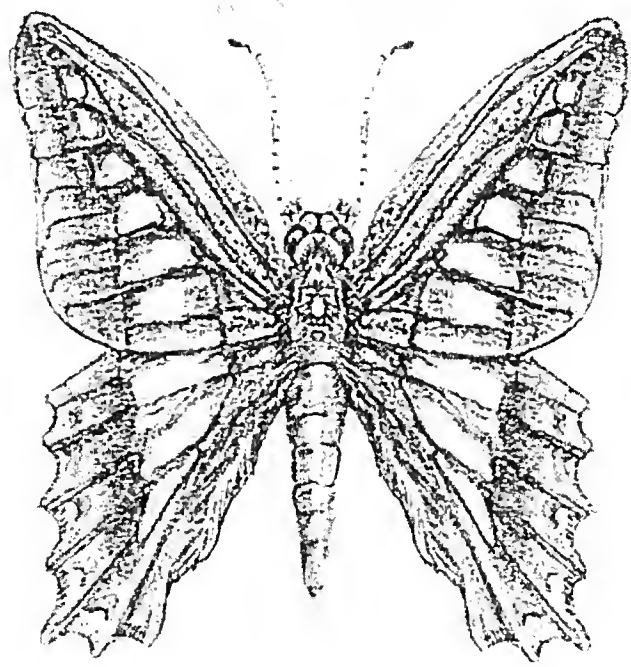
# VICTORIAN ENTOMOLOGIST

VOL. 32 No. 3 JUNE 2002

Print Post Approved PP 349018/00058 Price: $ 3.00



News Bulletin of The Entomological Society of Victoria Inc.

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (Inc)

## MEMBERSHIP

Any person with an interest in entomology shall be eligible for Ordinary membership. Members of the Society include professional, amateur and student entomologists, all of whom receive the Society's News Bulletin, the Victorian Entomologist.

## OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Society are:

(a) to stimulate the scientific study and discussion of all aspects of entomology,
(b) to gather, disseminate and record knowledge of all identifiable Australian insect species,
(c) to compile a comprehensive list of all Victorian insect species,
(d) to bring together in a congenial but scientific atmosphere all persons interested in entomology.

## MEETINGS

The Society's meetings are held at La Trobe University, 2nd Floor, Room 2.29, 215 Franklin Street, Melbourne (Opposite the Queen Victoria Market) Melway reference Map 2F B1 at 8 p.m. on the third Friday of even months, with the possible exception of the December meeting which may be held earlier. Lectures by guest speakers or members are a feature of many meetings at which there is ample opportunity for informal discussion between members with similar interests. Forums are also conducted by members on their own particular interest so that others may participate in discussions.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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|---|---|
| Ordinary Member | $20.00 (overseas members $22) |
| Country Member | $16.00 (Over 100 km from GPO Melbourne) |
| Student Member | $12.00 |
| Associate Member | $ 5.00 (No News Bulletin) |

Associate Members, resident at the same address as, and being immediate relatives of an ordinary Member, do not automatically receive the Society's publications but in all other respects rank as ordinary Members.

**Cover design** by Alan Ilyman.

**Cover illustration** of the Blue Triangle butterfly, *Graphium sarpedon* L. by Rhonda Millen.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 APRIL 2002

Meeting opened at 8.20pm

**Present:** D Dobrosak, I. Endersby, A. Kellehear, D. Stewart, J. Tinetti, P. Carwardine, C. Peterson, G. Weeks, R. McMahon, M. Endersby, P. Grey, E. Grey, R. Vagi, M. Kesavan, M. Searle.

**Apologies:** K. Walker.

**Minutes:** Minutes of General Annual meeting of June 2002 were accepted. M: A. Kellehear. S: D. Stewart.

**Treasurers report:**

- The treasurer noted that there was no hall hire as premises are courtesy of Latrobe University.
- There was no Le Souëf award this year.
- Account balances are quite high and there is no need to alter subscriptions.

The report was accepted M: I Endersby. S: Grey.
The auditor's statement shows the accounts are all in order and it will be lodged next week.

**Editor's report:**
The editor thanked all contributors and Susan Dobrosak who mails out the news bulletin every Monday before the General meeting.

**General business:**

- The ENTRECS, Conservation and Le Souëf Award committees were not active in 2001 and therefore there are no committee reports
- Annual Elections: There were no nominations, however the current council is prepared to continue for another year.
- Nominations from the floor were called for but none were received, therefore existing council will continue.
- Expressions of interest for the conservation and ENTRECS committees are called for. Would interested members please approach a councillor.

Meeting closed at 8.28pm

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**Apologies:** K. Walker.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the last General meeting were accepted. M: A. Kellehear. S: D. Stewart.

**Speaker:** The president, Prof Allan Kellehear, presented his address:
"Waiter! There's a fly in my soup": The Role of Insects in Humour
Allan's address explored the ways insects are used to create humour and to help construct identities such as the larger than life rural Aussie character. The address will be published in this edition of the news bulletin so all members can share the jokes. Look out for the one about Bruce, the grasshopper.

**General Business:**
- Correspondence: Circulars 95 and 96 of The Society for Insect Studies were tabled.
- Membership: V Jaeger, H Rich, K Stables and C Timewell were elected as members.
- Talks about possible alternative meeting venues will continue.
- Work of committees was explained
- The Society notes with regret the death of Nigel Quick. Nigel made a substantial contribution to the ENTRECS Group.
- Exhibits: News reports of the identification of the 31st order of insects were tabled
- E Grey showed samples of parasitised caterpillars collected in wet ash forest near Toolangi

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCILLOR'S MEETING, 17 MAY 2002

Meeting opened 8.10 pm.

**Present:** I. Endersby, A. Kellehear, J. Tinetti,

**Apologies:** D. Dobrosak, D Stewart

**Minutes:** Minutes of the last council meting were noted

**Treasurer's Report:**
- Account balances : General Account: $6979; Le Souëf Account: $3609.
- 29 contributions are outstanding. Notification will be included in the next mail out.

**Editor's Report:**
The editor reported that material is needed for the next issue. New contributors are most welcome

**General Business:**
1. There was general discussion re speakers for 2002.
2. There was general discussion about recruitment of new members. Several options were canvassed. These included advertising, writing articles for retirement newspapers and other clubs and societies.
3. Updating of our advertising brochures will be investigated.
4. A letter from P Carwardine was noted.

Meeting closed 8.30 pm.

# Biodiversity Developments

Catherine Simpson
Genazzano FCJ College

Biological diversity, or biodiversity means variety of life - bio means life and diversity means variety. Biodiversity is the totality of genes, species, and ecosystems in a region. There are 3 kinds of biodiversity, the first one is Variety of Genes; we have a wide variety of life because of the differences in genes. The second one is Variety in Species; scientists group living things into many different kinds of species, so far scientists have identified 1.75 million species but that's just a start. The third kind of biodiversity is Variety of Ecosystems; Scientists refer to the biodiversity of an ecosystem, which is a natural area made up of a community of plants, animals, and other living things in a particular physical and chemical environment.
Biodiversity suggests keeping the diversity of species in each ecosystem as we plan human activities that affect the use of land and resources. Maintaining a wide diversity of species in each ecosystem is necessary to preserve the web of life that keeps all living things. In 1992, Edward O. Wilson known as the "father of biodiversity" stated in, "The Diversity of Life", "It is reckless to suppose that biodiversity can be diminished indefinitely without threatening humanity itself "

Biodiversity gives us air to breathe; plants around the world take carbon dioxide out of the air and put oxygen into it. It gives us food to eat; bacteria in the soil makes nitrogen that helps crops grow, bees, bats and bugs pollinate food crops and birds and other predators control pests and improve harvests. Biodiversity gives us clean water; forests around the world filter our usable water again and again, constantly replenishing the water we use for drinking, bathing and growing crops. Biodiversity also gives us medicine; most medicines in pharmacies have ingredients that come from plants and animals, plus more than 4 billion people in the world use traditional medicines that come directly from plants and animals. Biodiversity also gives us clothes, shoes, paper, and pencils that come from raw materials provided by earth's diversity.
In Canada in the year 1988 the UNEP Governing council recognized the need to increase and make international efforts efficient to protect biodiversity. They then established an ad hoc working group to cover all areas of biodiversity and make sense of it. This group was called the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity. Another biodiversity event was in 1991 when the Canadian Biodiversity Convention Advisory Group formed for the purpose of communicating between the Government of Canada and representatives of a variety of non-governmental sectors to address the conservation and keeping the use of biodiversity.

In 1989 the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts from Canada found that there was a need for rules that countries were going to follow. In May 1992 the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee work resulted in the adoption on the twenty-second of May of the Final Act of Nairobi Conference of an agreed text (i.e. rules) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Our understanding of biodiversity has significantly increased in the last fifty years. In the late 20th Century and early 21' Century we are beginning to realize that biological resources have limits, and that we are going beyond those limits and thereby reducing biodiversity. Each year the human population is increasing more than ever before, species are becoming extinct at the fastest rate known in geological history and climate appears to be changing more rapidly than ever. Human activities are progressively destroying the earth's capacity to support life at the same time that growing numbers of people and increasing levels of consumption are making greater demands on the planet's resources.

Today, many species are dying out, or becoming extinct, at top speed because of habitat loss, introduced species, pollution, population growth and over- consumption. When people cut down forests, dig mines, build cities, or make roads they destroy habitats. Seeds can catch on people's clothes; Mice, rats and birds hitchhike on ships and snakes stowaway on airplanes. When these species land in new places, they often crowd out the species already there. Acid rains destroy forests. Oil spills kill coastal plants and animals. Poisons wash into waterways. Plastic trash entangles wildlife. It's easy to see how pollution is a big problem to biodiversity.

Nearly 6 billion people live on earth, each year we add 90 million more! All these people use resources for food, water, medicine, clothes, shelter and fuel. This leaves fewer resources for earth's species and habitats. Some people use more resources than others, for example, one American uses as much energy as 422 people in Ethiopia! People everywhere must learn to reduce, reuse and recycle earth's resources.

Australia must play a lead role in managing the global environment. Not only is the saving of Australia's biodiversity essential for its own future, Australia must accept its high level of responsibility for managing the world's natural heritage. It is the only developed country of the twelve "mega -diverse" nations, which between them contain 70 percent of the species of earth. Most of Australia's half a million different species occur nowhere else in the world.
We are aware of the dangers to biodiversity but are not doing much about it. Our future depends on biodiversity. Countries, governments, communities, schools, parishes, people, individuals - 6 billion people can make a difference! With our understanding of biodiversity because of the events that have happened in the past, we can increase biodiversity for the future.

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The 2002 Presidential Address for the Entomological Society of Victoria

# 'Waiter, there's a fly in my soup' THE ROLE OF INSECTS IN HUMOUR

Allan Kellehear, PhD.

It's been said that if you want to find the web of national preoccupation and social tension in a country you should study that countries humour. Any glance at the cartoons in our national and state dailies, or a brief listen to our comedians will soon tell you what preoccupies Australians at the moment. Humour criticises. But it also provides a safety valve or release for frustrations and tensions and allows both to dissipate in harmless and playful ways. A good sense of humour, like a good football or cricket match beats a war any day.

People laugh about anything. The secret to a good joke or a funny cartoon is not known. It is this idea of the unknown - better defined as 'the unexpected' - that makes us laugh. Laughter relaxes us, leading to the Reader's Digest view that it is probably our best medicine. But when we look at the use of certain types of content - jokes about politicians, or races, or animals, we can gain a certain understanding, not only about the moral of the tale, but also how we regularly view those subjects. I have reviewed several volumes of humour - some hundreds of cartoons and literally thousands of jokes - to examine the role insects play in the construction of our sense of humour. I have been interested in thematising, in identifying themes from Australian humour in particular but I will extend my comments to include humour in general, especially as these insights derive from overseas writers such as Gary Larson.

As soon as anyone does even the most cursory view of the Australian use of insects in their humour one is struck by several simple observations; (1) there are very few jokes employing insects. (2) Of those that do use insects, it is interesting that the most beautiful examples of insects, such as butterflies or damselfly or even beetles, are rarely present in joke-telling. And (3) there is a near-absence of insects in political humour - a rather ironic if mysterious omission given the fruitful potential of blood-sucking, parasitic, or cocoon images one can usefully draw upon in this scientific and pictorial genre.

## The Absent Insect

Let me show you an example of opportunity missed in regard to the absence of animal satire in political images even when there is a major need to generate them. In my first exhibit for tonight I show a political cartoon from The Bulletin in 1891 entitled 'Parkes in a Tight Place' (Coleman & tanner 1967:25). Here he is surrounded by the crocodile of free trade, the rhinoceros of taxation, the horse-bucking mule of the Labor Party, and many other labeled animal threats. But not an insect in sight. This is a cartoon symbol of the under-use of insects in Australian political humour. More's the pity I suspect.

## The Dirty Rotten Insect

In my next exhibit, a critique of the role of the church in Australian political and social life is exemplified by a giant locust drawn for the Cornwall Chronicle newspaper in Launceston in 1837. Here we see resentment towards the idea that the Church of England should be financed by public taxes (Coleman & Tanner 1967:77). Finally we see the use of irony in The Bulletin cartoon in 1965 (Coleman & Tanner 1967:183) where an outback café owner is preventing two aboriginal customers from entering on the grounds that they are 'unhygienic'. The key to the irony is the plague of flies surrounding the café food and staff. Flies, of course, are not always used to convey an insult, however ironic. In the next slide I show two rural men talking against a paddock fence. The humour, and irony here, is about race relations. The flies are used in this cartoon to convey the country. Although flies occur in the city, we often see them used to lend a sense of the isolated,

dusty and plague-ridden outback. To some extent, this presses home the myth - the rather large urban myth - that insects mean rural wilderness

In these three examples, we can see that the poorer, negative images of the insect are used to good effect. Insects are dirty and useless and they are employed in the cartoon in derisory ways. Blunt but effective but hardly sophisticated humour.

**In Support of the Great Aussie Character**

Insects have been one of the key ways that a larger than life Aussie character is created, especially the Great Rural Aussie Character. Here, insects are props and metaphors for the great dangers and hardships that Aussies must endure to live in this great country. Aussies, especially male Aussies are not 'sissies'. They are men of great, larger-than-life heroes of the sunburnt southern land.

Listen to some of these examples:

(1) Out near Uluru the flies were dreadful. A tourist spotted an old bloke from there.

'How do you find the flies here, mate?'

'You don't have to,' he replied, 'they find you!'

'But don't you want to do something for them?'

'No, I let 'em fend for themselves.'

'But don't you shoo them?'

'No, I let 'em run around barefoot.'

'But I don't like all these flies here, mate.'

'Well, let us know the ones you do like and I'll hunt the rest.'

'But seriously, do you know that the progeny of a single fly can number thousands?'

'Strewth,' said the old-timer, ' what would the progeny of a married one be?' (Adams & Newell 1996:445)

In the same vein is this joke:

(1)A visitor walked into the Ettamoga Hotel. 'Long time since I've seen sawdust on the floor of a pub,' he said. 'That's not saw dust,' another drawled, 'Its yesterdays furniture after the white ants got it.' (Ocker 1986)

In the above jokes, the humour is about the sheer numbers of flies that rural Australians must tolerate. Sometimes though, it's not the numbers but the size.

(3)When a man is broke he will sometimes refer to himself or others in that position as flyblown or sometimes he would defy even this and say: 'No mate, I'm so flyblown I couldn't buy a waistcoat for a grasshopper!' ( Wannan 1976: 88)

(4) Good with a stockwhip! Good? Why, he could whip the eyelash off a mosquito at a distance of a hundred paces! (Wannan 1976: 87)

(5)In Tasmania, the fleas are so big they're covered in dogs! (Wannan 1976: 82)

(6)Fred Dowling from Eulo in Queensland is reported by Wannan (1976:43) as reporting: ' I'm a roo shooter and in this game I think the tales told around the pub bar and among the skin buyers far outstrip those perpetrated by fisherman. The following yarn is typical. It seems that a bunch of kangaroo shooters, gathered together in a pub out West were skitting about their tallies, and as the evening progressed so did the size of the roos they'd shot. One hunter declared that he had once shot a giant roo that had taken himself and two mates three hours to skin - and when the hide was tacked out it had covered an acre of ground. In a corner of the bar sat an old-timer sipping his beer and listening without comment. Suddenly he spoke.

That's nothin', boys. Some years ago I was shooting out Big Bogawong way. While driving along, very late one afternoon, I spotted the most gigantic roo I'd ever seen. It was just on dark and he was sitting a coupla hundred yards off. Although the light was nearly hopeless for a shot, he was so big that I was confident that I couldn't miss him. I took the shot, and the monster appeared to crash in a cloud of dust. Racing against the light, and real excited at having shot the biggest roo in history, I tore over to the huge inert form stretched on the plain. Being a swift skinner I had the pelt off and was half-way back to the jeep before I realised something was wrong. I took a second look at the

hide I was humping. And then I saw my mistake. All that my shot had done was to knock one of the big fellas fleas off, and I had the skin of the flea over me bloody shoulder!
And two more in the same vein but about mosquitoes:
(7)The mosquitoes around Giru, in Northern Queensland, are pretty ferocious. A man once decided to go into milk production at Giru, but he gave up the game when he saw a mossie carry off a cow one night. (Wannan 1967: 31)
(8)Old Ned, who drove a team of bullocks between Newcastle and Singleton in NSW in the roaring days, used to swear that the biggest mosquitoes he ever encountered were the Hexham Greys, a species located at a waterhole a short distance out of Newcastle. One summer night Ned arrived at this spot and turned his bullocks out after putting bells around their necks. Next morning he went to round up the bullocks, but all he could find were the bells. He reckoned someone must have stolen the bullocks, until he looked towards the swamp. There, on a log, were a dozen of the fattest mossies he had ever seen. They had eaten the bullocks and were sitting on the log picking their teeth with the horns! (Wannan 1967: 31-32)

**Town and Country**
Another national theme that emerges from Aussie humour is the differences between town culture and rural culture, particular in the eating habits that one takes for granted. Always mindful of how town cuisine is that much broader and more cosmopolitan than rural, several jokes employ the insect as metaphor for these differences in values and experience.
(1) A certain bushman from Far Out paid his first visit to Brisbane. Having looked around for a while, he 'felt like a feed', as he would have phrased it, and entered a smart restaurant. Presently the waiter brought him a menu. 'Look 'ere mate,' said the bushman, 'I can't read nor write so I'll leave it to you to pick me out somethin' real nice.' 'Very good sir,' the waiter said; and in due course he returned with a dish of prawns garnished with finely sliced lettuce leaves. When he had finished his meal, the man from the outback called the waiter over. 'Hey, Claude, how much do I owe yer?' He asked. 'That will be eight shillings, sir,' said the waiter. Then, noticing that the prawns had been pushed to one side of the plate and hadn't been tasted, he asked with concern. 'Didn't you fancy your food, sir?' 'Well,' said the bushman hesitatingly, ' that damn grass wasn't too bad son. But I'll be damned if I'm going to eat them ruddy grasshoppers!' (Wannan 1964: 159). And another in this tradition...
(1)The famous artist, Sir Russell Drysdale, is painting away in the Northern Territory thousands of kilometres from nowhere, when he becomes aware of somebody's eyes burning a hole in his back. Sir Russell turns around and there, on the other side of the gully, is an old swaggy. He's watching with fascination as the picture emerges on the canvas. They strike up a very one-sided conversation. Eventually, Sir Russell prevails upon the painfully shy traveler to join him around the campfire later that night. 'I hope you like curry,' he says, 'I've got a really good one simmering away. All I've got to do is get some rice on.' Later on they're sitting eating by the light of the fire and Sir Russell notices that the old bloke is pushing all the sultanas to one side of his plate. 'Don't you like sultanas?' 'Aww,' says the swaggy, peering closely at his plate in the firelight, 'I thought they were blowies.' (Adams & Newell 1994:315)

**Moral and Political Comment**
Away from National self-aggrandisement lies a tradition of humour that parallels the idea of the moral parable. Here, the idea is to tell a funny story that sends a message to the listener about everyday life and its paradoxes and ironies. Let me describe several examples below.
(1)A grasshopper hopped into a pub and ordered a Gin and Tonic. 'Did you know there's a drink named after you?' the barman asked. 'What?' said the grasshopper. 'Bruce?' (Adams & Newell 1996:107) (In other words, expect the unexpected!).
(2)My daughters an ecologist, so we have religious differences over mosquitoes. Religious differences. She says, 'Thou shalt not kill.' And I say, 'Let us spray.' (Orben 1971:121)

(3)There's so much prejudice in this world. As one mosquito said to another while they watched a doctor of acupuncture push in his needles: 'And us they swat!' (Orben 1971:121)
(4)Do you know the government has no program to control mosquitoes? I guess it's professional courtesy. They both bite the hand that feeds them. (Orben 1971:121)
But at the end of the day, most humour about insects reveal puzzlement about insects. Love them or hate them, use them as insults or as objects of exaggerated fear or hardship, their use, such as it is, frequent belie ignorance and surprise.

**The Mystery of Insects**

The best example I could find of this inexplicability factor of insects in humour is the following case:
An old bloke who's been living alone and feeling sad and lonely goes to a pet shop and asks the assistant for a pet that would keep him company through his twilight years while not needing too much care and attention itself. The shop assistant says: ' I have the very thing, quite special you know,' and produces a cardboard box, inside which is a millipede. 'What's so special about that?' asks the man. The assistant replies: 'It's a talking millipede.'
The man's very impressed and buys the terrestrial crustacean. Back home he opens the box and asks the millipede: 'Shall we go to the pub then?' But he gets no reply. He asks the question again but still his new pet says nothing. So he sits back and ponders his acquisition for half an hour and considers taking it back to the pet shop, but decides to give it one more attempt. Looking into the box he again asks: 'Are we going to the pub then?' The millipede replies: 'All right, for Godsake, don't go on. I'm just putting my shoes on.' (Adams & Newell 2000:110-111)
It is the very mystery of insects for most people that cartoonist Gary Larson assumes in his humorous portrayal of them. This 'blankness', this 'unknown-ness' about insects allows Larson to use them in any way he sees fit - to confront us about our taken-for-granted superiority towards animals and make us laugh into the bargain. Although Larson is not an Australian - he's an American cartoonist - he is of special interest to us because he specialises in humour about animals and this includes insects.

**Who is Who Here?**

Larson's contribution to making us laugh - and think - about insects is to turn the tables on our common assumptions and to amplify some of our anxieties. He is also not beneath lampooning entomologists themselves. Look now at my first exhibit, a different take on the 'waiter, there's a fly in my soup' skit. One entomologist remarks to the other as he gazes into his soup bowl, "Hey! What's this Drosophila melanogaster doing in my soup?" I'd like you to hold this image in mind until we view the last one for the evening. Note for now, however, how the humans see, not simply a fly, but a particular sort of fly with a name. True, it's a scientific name, but here at least the animal has a name.

In the next series of overheads, we see much more of Larson lampooning and exaggerating our common fear and alienation from insects: a wife urging her husband to step on an insect that is bigger than both of them; two women discussing whether to open the door to an insect who knocks at their front door. Finally, there is the image of insects who are discussing their own identity and wondering if humans might be right after all - maybe they ARE just a bunch of bugs!

In our last series of images for this evening. Larson slowly turns the lens from our point of view to the insect point of view: the deflated man on the beach with his wife looking skywards observing the huge mosquito flying overhead; the insect photography exhibit that displays human body parts; and finally, a man browsing a book entitled "Know Your Insects" and as both he and the reader look on we see that the insects are known as 'Terry', 'Bob', 'Don' or 'Linda'.

What if our insects really did have personal names? What would the scientific and cultural implications be for entomology if not only WE gave them such names but THEY actually had such names? The fact of sheer numbers tends to impersonalise - we know this common social effect from how people relate to road accident figures or those from widespread and protracted warfare.

This has been a common problem for animals too and perhaps one factor leading to the slowness of thinking about them as feeling if not sentient relatives of ours. This is part of the argument developed by the Australian author and philosopher of animal rights, Peter Singer.

Our understanding of consciousness, agency and identity are in their infancy and when humourists such as Larson draw they draw our attention, not just to parody and support for the way things are, as much of tonight has well illustrated, but also to what might be. Who would have thought even 20 years ago about the very idea of 'animal rights'?

**Concluding observations**

So what are the simple lessons we can take away from our quick overview of humour and insects tonight?

First, entomology is not the only way that we can learn about insects. Ordinary people learn about insects not simply through popular advertising, art or music, but also in their daily examples and expressions of humour. People laugh about insects, and insects can make people laugh.

Second, humour about insects can also teach us about how the presence, function and form of insects complements and supports our own national identity. We must recognise that the image of the insect in Australia performs similar symbolic functions to the Kangaroo, the Emu and the Platypus when it comes to affirming our sense of national identity and lifestyle.

Third, humour about insects is part of the wider social and scientific influences that are currently forcing many people to rethink our relationship with the world - with the environment, with non-human citizens of that environment, and with our ethical behaviour towards and inside both.

Finally, humour about insects teaches us that not only is the professional and amateur interest in insects a fascinating and satisfying scientific pursuit, it can also a FUN-filled exercise for the human heart and spirit. And as the public health people are fond of reminding us, "Laughter is the best medicine!"

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# A New Larval Food Plant for the Vine Moth, *Phalaenoides glycine* Lew. (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Agaristinae)

Kelvyn L Dunn
e-mail: kelvyn_dunn@yahoo.com

In autumn of 1996, a vine moth, *Phalaenoides glycine* Lew., was observed ovipositing on a large ornamental *Fuchsia* bush (Onagraceae), growing in a residential garden. *Fuchsia*, valued for its showy pendulous flowers, includes some 100 described species distributed across South and Central America, and also Tahiti and New Zealand. The common garden *Fuchsia* cultivar was probably derived from *F. fungens*, *F. magellanica* and *F. corymbiflora*. The observation site was adjacent Hamilton Reserve in Upper Beaconsfield (towards Dewhurst) Victoria, at an altitude of 220m asl. (38°00'S, 145°27'E)

Eggs were deposited on or near leaves near the top of the plant, at about 1.5 metres above ground. During oviposition the female continued to rapidly flutter her wings as she inspected the leaves and hovered lightly over tips inspecting the foliage with her foreleg tarsi and then placing her eggs, singly.

Later, in May 1996 three mature larvae were seen conspicuously feeding on the leaves during the day. The larvae were still close (within 60cm) to the original oviposition site on a bush of volume of about eight cubic metres. They were left on the plant and occasionally observed. Their conspicuous markings seemingly offered limited camouflage.

Larvae mainly consumed the young leaves at the tips, and when fully fed, departed the host. One larva was discovered crawling speedily across pavement some four metres away from the trunk, and was no doubt seeking a site for pupation. This single larva, by chance observed, was heading towards a deeply shaded crevice beneath the dog kennel from whence it quickly disappeared into the darkness. No pupae were found on the plant or elsewhere. Pupae were not reared to adult to confirm successful emergence, but this would seem probable, as the larvae were moving vigorously and seemed healthy.

The 2m high *Fuchsia* bush suffered only localised damaged to leaves on a few adjacent shoots. Nigel Quick (pers. comm. 1996) expressed considerable surprise that the larvae had survived to maturity, and indeed that the female even laid on *Fuchsia*, initially suggesting an oviposition mistake. He remarked that in his years of local gardening and nursery experience *Fuchsia* was not utilised by any agaristine moths. The bush was situated some 10-12 metres from grape vines - a known host (Common 1990), and about which adults were occasionally seen, and upon which variable numbers of larvae were sometimes to be found. Quick suggested that the close vicinity of grapevines contributed to the female's host selection in this said unique event.

*Fuchsia* is not listed as a host by Common (1990), and hence appears to be new. The bush has been intermittently examined in subsequent years, but no more larvae or evidence of their feeding has been found. Indeed, *Fuchsia* seems very rarely utilised by this species.

**Acknowledgement**
Thanks to the late WNB Quick (formerly of Bunyip, Vic.) for nursery information on *Fuchsia* and his thoughts on this event.

**Reference**
Common, I.F.B. 1990. *Moths of Australia*. Melbourne University Press.

# Victorian Wolf Spiders

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Volker Framenau has recently completed his Ph.D. on "Taxonomy, Life History Characteristics and Ecology of Wolf Spiders (Araneae, Lycosidae) in the Victorian Alps, South-east Australia.". As a byproduct of this study he has published a web site which reviews the current systematic status of the Lycosids in Australia, including a checklist and comprehensive bibliography. For most species there is an illustration, particularly of male and female genitalia to aid identification, and many of them are copied from rare and inaccessible publications.

The Australian fauna has 22 genera currently recognised, containing 142 species with 2 subspecies. 10 genera are monotypic with another 6 containing only two or three species. *Lycosa* has the most species (47) with *Venatrix* (22), *Trochosa* (14) *Allocosa* (13) and *Artoria* (12) also having relatively high numbers. *Venatrix* and *Artoria* were the most common genera in Dr Framenau's riparian study areas, hence his substantial revisions of these two genera. At the Australian level it is not possible to provide an identification key to species as much taxonomic work remains to be done. Earlier placement of species within genera did not recognise phylogenetic relationships.

The Victorian fauna comprises 33 species in eight genera *Artoria* (9 species); *Crocodilosa* (1); *Hogna* (1); *Lycosa* (4); *Schizocosa* (1); *Trochosa* (3); *Venator* (2); and *Venatrix* (12). A high proportion of these have a riparian habitat. Victoria has three endemic species *Trochosa martensi* and *Venator marginatus* known only from their type localities of Alexandra and Macedon respectively and *Venatrix koori* from the metropolitan area.

It is surprising that *Venatrix pseudospeciosa*, the most common wolf spider in suburban areas, and *Venatrix koori* only known from metropolitan Melbourne, were described as recently as 2001. This, and the restricted reported range of the endemic species, suggests that the State had been poorly surveyed; a fine opportunity for members of the Society. Lycosids, being ground dwellers are a good target for pit trapping.

The full **Victorian checklist** including habitat preference, where recorded, is:

*Artoria albopedipalpis* Framenau 2002
Riparian gravel banks of alpine rivers and streams

*Artoria avona* Framenau 2002
Riparian gravel banks

*Artoria flavimanus* Simon 1909
Forest species, most likely winter active

*Artoria howqnaensis* Framenau submitted
Muddy and sandy banks of lowland rivers

*Artoria lineata* (L. Koch 1877)

*Artoria mckayi* Framenau submitted
Very common on riparian gravel banks of alpine rivers and streams

*Artoria quadrata* Framenau submitted
Litter of dry sclerophyll forests

*Artoria triangularis* Framenau submitted

*Artoria versicolor* (L. Koch 1877)
Forest species, found from dry sclerophyll to rainforest

*Crocodilosa ramosa* (L. Koch 1877)

*Hogna immansueta* (Simon 1909).

*Lycosa eyrei* (Hickman 1944)
Found on the surface of salt lakes

*Lycosa gilberta* Hogg 1905

*Lycosa godeffroyi* L. Koch 1865
Common Australia-wide

*Lycosa leuckarti* (Thorell 1870)
Lateritic gravels, loam or clay spoils, especially on alluvial clay soils near swamps streams and on river banks.

*Schizocosa berenice* (L. Koch 1877)

*Trochosa expolita* (L. Koch 1977)
Abundant on short grass, pastures and suburban lawns

*Trochosa martensi* (Karsch 1878)
Known only from Alexandra

*Trochosa tristicula* (L. Koch 1877)
Forested areas, including rainforests, under logs, leaves and bark and near the margins of swamps and creeks

*Venator marginatus* Hogg 1900
Known only from Macedon (type locality)

*Venator spenceri* Hogg 1900

*Venatrix arenaris* (Hogg 1905)
Sandy banks of rivers, lakes and springs

*Venatrix esposica* Framenau & Vinck 2001

*Venatrix fontis* Framenau & Vinck 2001
Sandy and moist environments such as river floodplains

*Venatrix funesta* (C.L. Koch 1847)
Forest habitats in mountainous regions up to 1800m

*Venatrix furcillata* (L. Kock 1867)
Open areas such as lawns and pasture, usually found near water

*Venatrix goyderi* (Hickman 1944)
Open areas near water

*Venatrix koori* Framenau & Vinck 2001
Known from metropolitan Melbourne only.

*Venatrix lapidosa* (McKay 1974)
Restricted to riparian gravel banks; biennial life style in Victoria

*Venatrix mckayi* Framenau & Vinck 2001
Forest species mainly found in the leaf litter of eucalypt forests

*Venatrix pictiventris* (L. Koch 1877)
Open areas close to woodland or shrubs and in the proximity of running water; some specimens from suburban Melbourne

*Venatrix pseudospeciosa* Framenau & Vinck 2001
Open areas; most common wolf spider in suburban areas, parks and gardens.

*Venatrix speciosa* (O. Koch 1877)
Forest habitats but many specimens also found in suburban areas; unusual life style with reproductive activity in winter.

**References.**

An abstract of Dr Framenau's thesis has been published in *Australasian Arachnology* No. **63**: 7-9 (April 2002), and his web site can be viewed at www.alphalink.com.au/~framenau/Lycosidae

# The use of sticky trap bands as a long term monitoring tool for exotic saproxylic insects of importance to forestry.

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## Introduction

Monitoring the presence of saproxylic insects is difficult due to the cryptic nature of many of the species and the differing emergence periods. Single time sampling, using light traps or hand collection, is limited by factors such as time of day, frequency, variation between collectors, and 'misses' in collection. A static technique that requires little maintenance, traps continuously for a period of time, and is consistent in the species captured solves several of those problems.

Monitoring to detect exotic saproxylic incursions into Australia is of increasing importance to the timber industry. Monitoring for specific species is currently undertaken, for example the Asian Gypsy Moth L*ymantria dispar* using pheromone lures at port surround sites around Australia, including Tasmania. Only a few species can be detected using specifically developed static pheromone or baited traps, for example some of the bark beetle genera such as *Ips* although the number of insects for which specific pheromone lures are being produced commercially is increasing.

Saproxylic insects are attracted to the host tree by a number of scent or silhouette cues. However the common feature is that the insects walk over the bole or branches of their host to determine oviposition or enter sites. The use of sticky bands greatly increases the opportunity to capture individuals that are surveying the surface of the host tree. Bands need to be placed on trees having a range of health status in order to include the range of sensitive cues required by each insect species.

In order to determine the effectiveness of sticky band traps in trapping a range of species, compared to other techniques, a trial was conducted at the Bell Bay port site in northern Tasmania. The intent was to capture timber insects to establish a base line database and reference collection of species present. This database and reference collection will make future sorting quicker and the detection of new or exotic species easier.

This initial trial was conducted over a six-month period during summer 2000/2001 at Bell Bay in northern Tasmania. The trial was repeated for the same time period during 2001/2002 at the port surround areas of Bell Bay and at Burnie, both on the northern coastline of Tasmania.

## Methods

### 2000/2001 Trial.

Permission was given by Comalco Aluminium Limited to fix traps to trees in the Fire Rehabilitation Project area at Bell Bay both for Asian Gypsy Moth surveys and the sticky-band trap trial.

Sticky waxed paper bands 400mm wide were stapled around the trunks and branches of several species of *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* in differing stages of health. Three trees each of *E. globulus*, *E. ovata*, *E. camaldulensis* and *Acacia dealbata* were selected. Two healthy trees and one tree in

declining health of each tree species were banded with at least one band. The declining eucalypts had basal bole attack by the cerambycid *Phoracantha mastersii.* The unthrifty *A. dealbata* had suffered severe fireblight (*Peltoschema orphana*) defoliation during the winter months.
The paper bands, 300 mm in width, were cut to length from 100m rolls of ACI 'Polycote'; a polyolefin extrusion coated paper, stapled in position on the trees then coated with 'Tangle-Trap' (The Tanglefoot Company, Grand Rapids, USA). The sticky traps were operational from early October 2000 to late May 2001 and were replaced at monthly intervals. Specimens were removed from the sheets using mineral turpentine and individual specimens cleaned in 'De-Solv-it' (RCR International, Sandringham, Australia) a citrus based solvent, before mounting.

The specimens have been lodged in the Tasmanian Forest Insect Collection (TFIC) in Hobart.

**2001/2002 Trial.**
The sticky trap technique was used as detailed above. At Bell Bay eight *E. globulus* trees were banded, four *E. camaldulensis* and four *Acacia dealbata.* One tree of each species selected was in poor health. At Burnie, View Street Park, seven *E. viminalis* trees, four *Acacia melanoxylon* and four *Acacia dealbata* were banded for the same time period. Permission from the Burnie Council was obtained prior to selecting trees. One tree of each species was of poor health status. Both Bell Bay and Burnie trial sites were within a one-kilometre radius of the port.

## Results

The following table shows the total number of specimens and species of insects of economic importance to the timber industry collected by the sticky traps at Bell Bay and Burnie during the two-year trial.

| Family | Specimens | Species | Specimens | Species | Specimens | Species |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Bell Bay 00/01 | | Bell Bay 01/02 | | Burnie 01/02 | |
| **Coleoptera** | | | | | | |
| Elateridae | 316 | 21 | 294 | 14 | 54 | 22 |
| Buprestidae | 32 | 7 | 13 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Scolytidae | 17 | 2 | 15 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Anobiidae | 59 | 5 | 37 | 4 | 13 | 1 |
| Cerambycidae | 56 | 9 | 32 | 6 | 17 | 14 |
| Totals | 480 | 44 | 391 | 31 | 89 | 41 |
| **All Coleoptera families** | | **53** | | **92** | | **98** |
| Total Coleoptera species in survey to date | | **172** | | | | |
| **Hymenoptera** | | | | | | |
| Ichneumonidae | 144 | 12 | 124 | 15 | 148 | 22 |
| **Hemiptera** | | | | | | |
| Auchenorrhyncha | 1323 | 9 | 1182 | 7 | 821 | 11 |

Many other families of insects were also captured on the sticky traps including weevils, psyllids and aphids all of that could be of importance as exotic incursions.
A number of wood inhabiting Coleoptera species have been sent to ANIC for identification.

## Discussion

The use of a static collecting method is a useful tool to assist in the inventory of insects utilising a specific habitat. In this case individual trees of a range of species were targeted. The insects collected have provided a list of species currently utilising the banded trees. This reference collection will make future sorting of samples of samples both quick and reliable since only species not on the reference list need be prepared for identification. Scanning of sticky sheets by technicians familiar with the reference listings for a particular site will be very rapid. None of the 'common' insects will require examination. The emphasis will be on new material, which can be added continuously to the database and a very small number of specimens requiring detailed attention by specialists.

A comparison of sticky trap sampling of bark dwelling carabids with a hand collection technique at the same sites was presented in Bashford (2001). It is estimated that 20 man-hours of manual searching of bark of about 45 trees (11 tree species) resulted in 14 species of carabids being found (36 complete specimens). By comparison the static sticky traps at Bell Bay 2000/2002required about 5 hours to maintain on 16 trees (3 tree species) yielded 15 species (247 complete specimens).

Monitoring of a number of sites and tree species in a port surround survey will require techniques that reduce the labour intensity required to obtain a sufficient sample to determine the presence of exotic species.

The development of a reference collection and database which lists the existing insect fauna of specific tree species at a port surround site will provide the basis for comparison of collected specimens. Only those species not in the reference collection will need taxonomic study to determine if native to Australia or exotic. Once in place these measures will markedly reduce the sorting and determination effort.

The use of static sticky bands provides a technique specifically aimed at saproxylic and sap-sucking insects that is cost effective, very efficient, and of low maintenance cost. It may be possible to improve the current technique by pre-coat paper bands with 'Tanglefoot' using aerosol application then covering the bands with a plastic film which is then removed when in position. The technique is not effective in trapping and holding large individual specimens, such as large cerambycids, Other static techniques are needed to capture these specimens such as Lindgren funnel traps, bait (log) traps, or cross-vane or pipe traps for woodborer species generally (McIntosh *et al* 2001).

In most cases the herbivorous guilds will require manual search techniques such as pruning of branch samples, beating trays or foliage fogging. The utilisation of static techniques will allow a greater proportion of manual search time to be spent on the herbivorous guilds which could be sampled from the same trees carrying static traps.

## References

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McIntosh, R.L., Katinic, P.J., Allison, J.D., Borden, J.H. and Downey, D.L. (2001)
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## DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

**Friday 21 June General Meeting**
Kelvyn Dunn Will Give a Video Presentation on
"Aspects of The Behavior of Butterflies of Cape York Peninsula"

Friday 19 July Council Meeting

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**ISSN 0310 - 6780**